

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR
CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
BEFORE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

The California Department of Water Resources has filed an application for water quality certification (certification) with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for the 2021 Emergency Drought Salinity Barrier Project. Certifications are issued under section 401 of the Clean Water Act. California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3858, requires the Executive Director of the State Water Board to provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application. The notice period may be shortened in an emergency. On May 10, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency due to severe drought conditions and directed the California Department of Water Resources to take necessary actions to address potential Delta salinity issues, including through the installation of emergency drought salinity barriers. In light of the proclaimed State of Emergency, the notice period may be shortened.

Written questions and/or comments regarding the application should be directed to Oscar Biondi:

By email:

Oscar.Biondi@waterboards.ca.gov

or

By Mail:

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights – Water Quality Certification Program
Attn: Oscar Biondi
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

RECEIVED:	May 14, 2021
PROJECT:	2021 Emergency Drought Salinity Barrier Project
APPLICANT:	California Department of Water Resources
CONTACT:	Mr. Jacob McQuirk
COUNTY:	Contra Costa
PUBLIC NOTICE:	May 17, 2021
PROJECT STATUS:	Pending

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The California Department of Water Resources has applied for certification to install an emergency drought salinity barrier at West False River to help preserve water quality by reducing saltwater intrusion into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) during the 2021 drought conditions. The emergency temporary rock barrier will prevent tide-driven saltwater from pushing too deeply into the central and south Delta, help protect water supplies used by people who live in the Delta and in Contra Costa, Alameda, and Santa Clara counties, and allow water managers to retain more water in upstream reservoirs for release later in the year.